

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7154

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AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 8541

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS:

AUSTRALIA'S POST-ELECTION CONSOLIDATION IS UNDERWAY BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE REORGANISATION WITH POSSIBLE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR USIS IS THE DECLARED BUT YET UNDEFINED CUTBACK ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS. IN MANY INSTANCES, PARLIAMENTARIANS ON IV GRANTS HAVE SHARED THE COSTS BY USING ALL OR PART OF THEIR GOVERNMENT TRAVEL SUBSIDY. UNDER THE NEW POLICY OVERSEAS TRAVEL IS TO BE CURTAILED SHARPLY AND BOTH PUBLIC SERVANTS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ARE REPORTED TO BE EFFECTED. AT LEAST THREE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES MAY FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THIS EDICT, THUS REQUIRING SOME REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTEEES FOR THE YEAR. WE ARE CHECKING WITH THE GOA FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE AUSTERITY MOVE AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE IV PROGRAM

AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENTAL REORGANIZATION, A NUMBER OF MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE JUGGLED. THE POST IS HARD AT WORK REVISING THE ARS, INCORPORATING

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NEW NAMES AND UPDATING OLD ONES.

PROGRAM:

DR DANIEL OKUN, VOLSPEAKER IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, WAS PRINCIPAL GUEST AT TWO SESSIONS IN CANBERRA. FIRST WAS AN EVENING SESSION WITH WASTEWATER BOARD OF DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SECOND ON FOLLOWING DAY WITH WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL OF SAME DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION TO MATERIALS PROVIDED BY AGENCY, POST WAS ABLE TO SECURE AND DISTRIBUTE COPIES OF TWO-VOLUME WORK BY PROFESSOR OKUN FOR DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY. OKUN VERY WELL RECEIVED AND ASKED TO RETURN. IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-ON TO OKUN S PROGRAM WAS REQUEST FROM NEW MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION FOR ASSISTANCE IN MATERIALS TO BE USED NATIONWIDE. MATERIALS WILL BE REQUESTED IN SEPTTEL. EMBASSY MINERALS ATTACHE PARTICIPATED IN OKUN PROGRAM. AAEF PLANS FOR A DISTINGUISHED BICENTENNIAL VISITOR FOR AUSTRALIA ARE UNDERGOING SOME BACKING AND FILLING AS THE PRINCIPAL CHOICE, EX-SENATOR WILLIAM FULBRIGHT HAS INDICATED HE MAY NOT NOW BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE AAEF'S INVITATION. SENATOR FULBRIGHT WAS TO BE THE HIGHPOINT OF THE AAEF'S BICENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTION BUT THE SENATOR'S WIFE IS IN ILL HEALTH AND MAY FORCE HIM TO CANCEL. IF SO, THE AAEF HAS ELECTED TO INVITE IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE HARVARD PRESIDENT BOK, COMMON CAUSE'S JOHN GARDINER OR EX-SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK MOUNT

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